



KITCHENS

*Touches of statement colour and pattern
will bring depth and character to the heart of the home*

LIGHTING

Low-hanging pendants are ideal for focusing attention on the dining area. Suspended over a large table, a trio of lights adds a dramatic flourish in this scheme by Plain English.



PATTERN

Using subtle pattern in complementary colours on walls and floors is a great way to create interest without dominating a space. This wallpaper is Rosehip, £50 a roll, from Morris & Co.



DISPLAY

In this smart dining scheme by interior designer Emma Sims Hilditch, a collection of wall-mounted plates makes a striking focal point, while the choice of a neutral palette keeps the look elegant.



STORAGE

Painting cabinets in a different colour to the walls lends a smart, architectural look to a room. Here, the dark paint shade is balanced by the warm tones of the Chiltern chairs, £275 each, from Ercol.



COLOUR

Mixing shades of the same colour is a clever way to pull a scheme together. This Suffolk kitchen by Neptune is painted in Charcoal, while the chairs are in Fog. Neptune kitchens, from £11,000.

EXPERT VIEW **FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES**

Balancing comfort with function is essential, whether you opt for traditional style or current trends

SOPHIE CONRAN, designer and cookery writer,
0843 227 1461, sophieconran.com.

1 Plan your kitchen so that everything you use regularly is within easy reach – knives next to chopping boards, the dishwasher close to storage for plates and glasses.

2 Flooring is all-important. I like wood best as it's easy to clean and not too hard underfoot when you've been standing for a while.

3 A kitchen should be comfortable and not too precious. As a cookery writer, my kitchen is like my shed – it is where I experiment, so it has to work from a practical point of view, but it's also a meeting place for the family to relax and eat and talk.



EMMA SIMS HILDITCH, creative director,
Neptune, 01793 427427, neptune.com.

1 As the kitchen is the heart of the home, attractive cabinets are a must. I would always opt for a timber-framed kitchen over a lacquered design; as colour trends change, you can easily repaint it to give it a revamp. A wooden floor will create a softer feel than stone.

2 Replace the scaled-up kettle with a boiling water tap – the ultimate kitchen luxury.

3 Glass jars with lids make beautiful accessories. I store nuts, seeds and dried fruits in large jars on my kitchen dresser. Try layering different pastas in them for a decorative effect.





Apples print by
Anna Kóvecses,
42x29.5cm,
£25, YCN.



Porcelain serving bowls with
Cobalt Blue line, H14xdiam30cm (largest),
£120 set of three, John Julian Design.



Clessidre timer
in Purple,
H30.5cm, £35,
Bitossi at Heal's.



Lau ash dining table,
H73xW180xD90,
£1,695, Heal's.



Weylux The Queen
balance scales,
H23xW31xD21.5cm,
£99.50, Divertimento.

Craft rolling pin,
L44xdiam7cm, £108,
Simon Legald for
Normann Copenhagen
at SCP.



Chichester end grain
chopping board block,
H86xW81xD55cm,
£875, Neptune.

WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 30

PETER SHEPPARD, designer for Smallbone of Devides, 020 7589 5998, smallbone.co.uk.

1 Don't compromise on size. Remember this room will probably be used more than any other, not only for cooking and eating, but also for relaxing, socialising and even doing homework.

2 The kitchen is foremost a home interior and needs to be a comfortable space. It should be well laid out, promoting an intimate relationship between cooking and eating.

Q I prefer to use simple panelling in the kitchen,

rather than heavy mouldings and detailing, as it creates a lighter feel. If your internal cupboards are glazed, make sure they are lit for a soft glow.

JAMIE TELFORD, director, Roundhouse 020 7297 6220, roundhousedesign.com.

1 An emerging trend is for free-standing cabinets, particularly glass with fine glazing bars, in which china and special items can be stored while on display. The latest options have mirrored backs.

2 Kitchen stools are often overlooked – it's worth seeking out well-made, good-looking stools, as they are a crucial part of the design.



3 Mixing materials is currently popular; consider steel and concrete surfaces and finishes such as bronze or patinated silver on cabinets. Special veneers on worksurfaces or cabinetry can be reflected in dining furniture or open shelving.



EXPERT VIEW COLOUR AND LIGHT

Versatility is the key to creating a hard-working scheme for cooking, entertaining and relaxing

SABINA MILLER, head of home, Heal's, 020 7896 7451, heals.co.uk.

1 Why not be adventurous with colour and texture by mixing hand-painted bowls and tinted glassware to add personality to the table? Accessories such as table mats and napkins are not only functional but ideal for injecting pattern and fun into the kitchen and are an easy way to instantly change the look.

2 For everyday essential items, including tumblers, wine glasses and porcelain dinnerware, invest in quality pieces in classic shapes, because they will stand the test of time. Complement the basics with a few decorative pieces; clear glass looks good and won't appear to eat into valuable space – try oversized bonbon jars and glass cake stands for a chic and light effect.

3 A collection of treasured pieces, such as collectable ceramics, antique plates or inherited family silverware, will give a unique and eclectic touch to any dinner party.

GAIL TAYLOR, creative and managing director, th2 Designs, 020 7349 9494, th2designs.co.uk.

1 A kitchen is a long-term investment, so opt for neutral colours that you won't tire of and add punch with accessories and artwork. An oversized felt pinboard will add a pop of colour and is super useful for all those lists and stray sticky notes, especially in a busy family home.

2 It's important to layer lighting in a kitchen – always choose a combination of task and ambient lighting, so that you can work

effectively, with atmospheric options such as table lamps and spots or pendants on a dimmer switch for relaxing or entertaining. A decorative wall light can give an added touch of interest and enhance light levels. I have one over my coffee machine and it provides a great focal point.

3 Suspended lighting over a table or island gives a lovely intimate feel for dining. Make sure that it can be switched on and off separately from the main lighting; having two or three circuits installed before decorating is always worthwhile.

PHILIPPA THORP, director, Thorp, 020 7235 7808, thorp.co.uk.

1 So many kitchens look inwards, which can feel dark. Plan the layout so that when you are cooking you're looking out, away from a wall. This helps with the feeling of light and space.

2 Ensure there is as much natural daylight as possible. If your kitchen is part of a one-storey extension, a large glass rooflight will really open up the space. Glazed doors leading onto the garden also work very well. I prefer light cabinets as cleanliness is paramount, so I tend to use neutral colours in similar shades for the walls and cupboards. Kitchens can be busy, so keep the number of colours to a minimum.

3 Fit downlights in the ceiling just in front of the wall cupboards so that the light falls down the face of them onto the work surface. This creates nice mood lighting on the cupboard fronts, too. The materials you choose can also affect the light. A glossy Parapan finish allows you to use a bit more colour as light reflects beautifully off the surface.

ROB WHITAKER, creative director, Fired Earth, 01295 814396, firedearth.com.

1 Glass tiles, polished worksurfaces and glazed cabinets will help to introduce light into a small kitchen, instantly making it appear larger. Keeping surfaces as clear as possible will also enhance the impression of space and light, so cleverly designed storage is always essential.

2 For a fresh look, a coastal palette of gentle blues, off-whites and greys is a particularly versatile choice. Build up colours in layers, perhaps opting for units in two or three shades and using tiles and paint to create a clean but warm and inviting scheme.

3 The floor is going to have things dropped on it, so practicality is key. A very pale floor will need constant cleaning, while a darker option or colourful, patterned tiles will be more resilient. Decorative tiles are ideal for introducing colour and visual interest if you've chosen neutral, classic kitchen units.



From dining furniture to cooking utensils and crockery, there's a lot to consider when kitting out this room

Craft pestle and mortar.
H7.5xdiam13cm, £74.
Normann Copenhagen
at Bear & Bear.



Recto Verso chair.
H77xW51.5xD54.5cm.
£315, Marlow Shop
at Morrison's Shop.



Shaker upright cupboard.
H170xW80xD47cm, from £1,500, deVOL.



Riss enamelled
frying pan,
diam18cm, £37.
Manufactum



Brass & Walnut
pour-over coffee brewer.
H32xW18xD14cm,
from £135, Kauffmann
Mercantile.



Marble and
wood hexagon
chopping board.
W30cm, £45,
Holly's House

MOODBOARD **MODERN BLUE AND WHITE**

Combine shades from sky to indigo with plenty of white for a classic palette with an up-to-date feel

- 1| **Hewer Stripe** 1810, cotton, 137cm wide, **£30m**, *Heal's*.
- 2| **Cosia** in Cobalt, polyester, 300cm wide, **£49m**, *Designers Guild*.
- 3| **Amore in Ink**, viscose mix, 280cm wide, **£59m**, *Clarke & Clarke*.
- 4| **Barcelona Brick tile** in Sarria, 6.3x25cm, **£89.58sq m**, *Fired Earth*.
- 5| **Milano wool flannel** in 33, wool mix, 140cm wide, **£74m**, *Clementine Oliver*.
- 6| **Linara** in Indigo, cotton mix, 140cm wide, **£34.50m**, *Romo*.
- 7| **Komon in Denim**, cotton mix, 137cm wide, **£39m**, *Ian Sanderson*.

- 8| **Jive** in Cobalt, cotton, 140cm wide, **£35m**, *Jane Churchill at Colefax and Fowler*.
- 9| **Pico Down tile** in Blanc with Blue Dots, 12cm sq, **£152.95sq m**, *Surface*.
- 10| **Barcelona Brick tile** in Barrio, 6.5x25cm, **£89.58sq m**, *Fired Earth*.
- 11| **Spoon** in Wedgwood Blue, Flat Emulsion, **£41** for 2.5 litres, *Zoffany*.
- 12| **Empress tile** in Lapis, 15.2cm sq, **£174.72sq m**, *Fired Earth*.
- 13| **Etch 130633**, viscose mix, 146cm wide, **£50m**, *Harlequin*.
- 14| **Linoleum 121-148**, 200cm wide, **£33.60m**, *Sinclair Till*. **WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 30**

